

Urban District Council of Ince-in-Makerfield



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1950



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ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS
OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Bacteriologist—

J. L. DALES, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., D.T.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—

T. HAILWOOD, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

H. TOPPING, A.R.San.I.

INCE-IN-MAKERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



*To the Chairman and Members
of the Public Health Committee.*

Sir, Mrs. Winstanley, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present an Interim Report on the health of the district for the year 1950 compiled in the abbreviated form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspectors for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

1. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area : 2,320 acres.

Population (Census 1931) : 21,763

Estimated mid-1950 (Registrar General): 20,420

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931): 4,630.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1950 according to Rate Books : 5,433

Rateable value : £64,677

Sum represented by a Penny Rate : £249 (nett).

Ince is essentially an industrial area, the principal industry being coal mining. In addition, wagon works, railway work and cotton spinning mills give employment to both sexes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Live Births</i> {	Legitimate	195	170	365
	Illegitimate	2	4	6
	TOTAL...	197	174	371
		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Still Births</i> {	Legitimate	3	5	8
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	TOTAL...	3	5	8
		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age</i> {	Legitimate	12	4	16
	Illegitimate	0	1	1
	TOTAL...	12	5	17
	DEATHS...	152	105	257
		Male	Female	TOTAL
<i>Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age</i> {	Legitimate	7	2	9
	Illegitimate—	—	1	1
	TOTAL...	7	3	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1950.....18.5

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....15.7

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births.....21.0

No. of Women dying in, or in consequence of Pregnancy and Childbirth:	
From Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
From other maternal causes.....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births:	
due to Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis.....	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births	
due to other causes.....	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—	
All Infants per 1,000 live births.....	46
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	44
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	167
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	37
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages).....	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age).....	—

TABLE 1.

Per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

	Live Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Cancer Death Rate
Mean of 5 years—				
1945—1949	21.1	11.8	0.30	1.55
1949	19.2	12.0	0.20	1.12
1950	18.2	12.6	0.39	— *
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on—				
5 years average,				
1945-1949	—2.9	+ 0.8	+ 0.09	— *
Previous year's average	—1.0	+ 0.6	+ 0.19	— *
	Maternal Mortality Rate			
	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 (Total Live & Still Births)	Rate of Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Live Births	
Mean of 5 years—				
1945—1949	1.89	1.84	61	
1949	2.54	2.48	51	
1950	Nil	Nil	46	
Increase or Decrease in 1950 on—				
5 years average,				
1945-1949	—1.89	—1.84	—15	
Previous year's average	—2.54	—2.48	— 5	

* In view of the fact that the particulars of Cancer deaths supplied for 1950 are not strictly comparable with those of previous years, the Cancer death rate for 1950 has been omitted.

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1950.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	8
Tuberculosis, other	4
Diphtheria	0
Whooping Cough	0
Meningococcal Infections	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0
Measles	0
Cancer	37
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0
Diabetes	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	26
Coronary disease angina	18
Hypertension with heart disease	6
Other heart disease	67
Other circulatory disease	5
Influenza	2
Pneumonia	8
Bronchitis	18
Other diseases of respiratory system	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	1
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0
Congenital malformations	4
Other diseases	30
Suicide and violent deaths	13
	257

2. General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and by the Public Health Laboratories, Monsall, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1950 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 19 Throat Swabs, 11 samples of Water, 20 samples of Milk and 12 samples of Ice Cream.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year Non-Infectious, Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with adequately by the motor ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at Hindley and Ashton-in-Makerfield.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No applications were received during the year under sub-section 3, section 47, of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

3. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY.

The two sources of the Water Supply are the Council's own Deep Wells at Golborne, and the Rivington Reservoirs belonging to the Liverpool Corporation. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

One chemical and one bacteriological examination of the raw water were made during the year and found to be satisfactory, although hard.

The piped supply of water to the township after chlorination and softening treatment was examined 3 times bacteriologically and 3 times chemically during the year 1950, and found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of the house known as Bank Top House, on the Aspull boundary, whose supply is derived from an adjacent spring. 3 samples of this supply were taken during the year and were satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type: storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

At the Sewage Works, Bacterial Filter Beds are in use, and no outstanding development has taken place during the year.

All reconstructed house drainage work is subject to inspection, the smoke or other appropriate test being applied wherever facilities exist.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1950) :

Number of Privy Middens	...	...	...	68
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens				97
Number of Pail Closets	...	...	...	35
Number of Freshwater Closets	...	...	...	5676
Number of Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	—
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	...	...	...	—
Number of Moveable Ashbins for Refuse	...	...	...	5447
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System				5301

Under the General Conversion Scheme, the Local Authority pays half the cost of each conversion, with a maximum of £4 per conversion. No conversions were made during 1950.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Street scavenging and removal of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority.

Two S.D. Freighter motor vehicles are employed on refuse collection work. The average interval between collections is 9 days for dustbin refuse and 4 weeks for privy middens. The refuse is disposed of at four tips where controlled tipping is carried out.

There is no destructor in the district.

The removal of House Refuse is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector, but he is not responsible for the scavenging of the streets.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of premises visited	...	...	...	3632
Number of Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	1710
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	1573
Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	489
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	168
Number of Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

No action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed sites or caravans in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The Authority is represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. Contact is maintained between the Officers of the Public Health Department and local Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement.

There are 24 factory and works chimneys in the district, and a time limit of 2 minutes in any half-hour has been fixed for the emission of black smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

60 houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Zaldecide containing 5% D.D.T. (Geigy). This method has proved highly efficient.

Periodical inspection of houses is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, to prevent infestation or reinfestation after cleansing.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Premises in Pennington Lane have been converted for Tripe Boiling, and this trade is being carried on there without offence, with the permission of the Sanitary Authority, and under the constant supervision of the Sanitary inspector.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES.

The following table gives particulars of the inspections during the year under Part I of the Factories Act, 1937, and an analysis of the defects which were found, with particulars of the action taken.

FACTORIES — DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars	NUMBER OF DEFECTS				No. of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts —					
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	—	2	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences —					
Insufficient	2	1	—	2	—
Unsuitable or defective ..	4	3	—	4	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS.....	12	10	—	8	—

Premises	No. of Inspect'ns	No. of written Notices	No. of occup'rs pros'ted
Factories with Mechanical Power.....	48	8	—
Factories without Mechanical Power...	7	1	—
Other premises	—	—	—
TOTALS.....	55	9	—

Under Part VIII of the Act, one visit was made to premises occupied by one outworker. The premises were satisfactory.

CANAL BOATS.

Five Canal Boats were inspected during the year, and no infringements of Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient.

The majority of the Schools are provided with separate W.C's, each with its own cistern and flushing provision, but in certain schools there still remain forms of automatic flushing. It is desirable in the interests of hygiene that these should be replaced by water closets of the independently flushed type. Regular lime-washing of conveniences is arranged for by the Education Authority in the case of all Schools in the area.

The facilities for the handling of meals at six of the schools are reasonably good, but are unsatisfactory at the remaining three schools.

4. Housing.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are old in type, and congested in certain areas.

Mining subsidence is responsible for much damage to structure, and old houses are continuously in need of repairs, which are rendered difficult by the shortage of labour and building materials.

Most of the bad cases of overcrowding have been relieved, but the situation has not greatly improved owing to newly-married couples having to live with their parents. The problem is not one of inability to pay the rentals of houses but is the actual shortage of houses.

Schemes are in hand for the provision of 328 permanent houses to alleviate the housing position.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

Traditional permanent houses :

(i)	By the Local Authority	78
(ii)	By other Authorities	—
(iii)	By other bodies and persons	—

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year :

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	906
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	1704
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head [1] above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	5
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	7
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	841

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	358
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	
	(a) By owners	—
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	168
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices		
(a) By owners	... ..	165
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	4

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	—

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	approx. 500
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	... ..	approx. 700
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	... ..	approx. 3750
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	30
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	78
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	... ..	390

5. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1950 11 samples of milk were examined by the biological test for Tuberculosis and 9 samples of milk were also submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue Test, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of heat-treated milk. All the samples were satisfactory.

There are 2 dairy farms in the district having a total of approximately 90 cows. There are also 8 dairies which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

During the year, licences in respect of milk were granted to the following :—

Dealers of sterilised milk	111
„ „ pasteurised milk	15
„ „ tuberculin-tested pasteurised milk	2
Distributors	12

(b) MEAT.

There is no slaughter house in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Clean Meat Regulations are enforced. All diseased meat is at once seized by the Sanitary Inspector.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	—	—	—	—	17
Number inspected	—	—	—	—	17
All diseases except Tuberculosis—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with dis- ease other than Tuberculosis.	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis only—					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned....	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspec- ted affected with Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	—

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

(c) ICE-CREAM.

Two new ice-cream manufacturing premises containing modern and efficient equipment have been erected in the district and are both operating satisfactorily under constant supervision of the health department.

(d) FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning occurred in the district during 1950.

(e) CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGNS.

The Model Food Byelaws have been adopted and all butchers' shops, ice-cream premises, food preparing premises etc. are kept under constant supervision.

6. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Disease.

During 1950, cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment were removed to Whelley and Astley Hospitals.

28 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 41 in 1949, and of the 28 cases, 13 were removed to hospital for treatment.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, or in the previous year.

No cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office, and the local hospitals, and are always available to the medical practitioners.

As stated earlier in the Report, 19 Throat Swabs were reported upon to the Authority by the Wigan Infirmary Laboratory.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed by the Medical Officer at the Central Clinic. During 1950 186 pre-school and 24 school children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 12 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1950.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1950 TABLE C.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified ; number of Deaths from these Diseases ; number of cases removed to Hospital ; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1950.

DISEASES	Total Under Cases all ages										Deaths in cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belonging to district
	1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over	Total Deaths		
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	28	5	8	11	4	...	...	...	...	...	13	...
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute <i>Primary</i> and <i>Influenzal Pneumonia</i> ...	18	2	4	1	2	2	4	1	2	8	2	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Polio Encephalitis..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles (excluding German Measles).....	329	16	111	125	82	1	...	...	...	...	2	...
Whooping Cough	32	3	14	7	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS.....	413	15	134	141	103	6	7	2	4	8	17	...

A severe outbreak of Measles of a mild type occurred during the year.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1950, 71 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray, and it is usual, in the district, to disinfect after Phthisis, but not as routine after Measles.

The Steam Disinfector at the Sewage Works, Platt Bridge, was utilised for the Disinfection of the Clothing, Bedding etc., where necessary, of all patients suffering from infectious disease.

CANCER.

37 deaths (24 male and 13 female) were certified as due to Cancer during the year, as compared with 23 in 1949.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Ince residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The dispensary service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, and Ince cases attended at the Dispensary in Millgate, Wigan.

20 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1950, 9 being cases of Pulmonary, and 11 cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 12 deaths from Pulmonary and non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis in age groups, and the total deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS NEW CASES

TABLE D.

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	—	1
5—10	—	—	—	1
10—15	—	—	—	1
15—20	—	1	1	1
20—25	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	—	—	1
35—45	1	2	1	1
45—55	1	—	1	1
55—65	1	—	1	—
65 & up- wards	1	—	—	—
TOTALS... ..	6	3	4	7
	9		11	
Deaths	6	2	2	2
	8		4	

